

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
LAW AND JUSTICE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6305
ANSWERED ON:12.04.2017
Common Electoral Roll
Birla Shri Om

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has any plan to unify the electoral rolls from panchayat to Parliamentary elections level;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the Government has ensured that no persons' voting rights are denied by categorizing them as doubtful voters; and
- (d) if so, the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE FOR LAW AND JUSTICE AND ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
(SHRI P.P.CHAUDHARY)

(a) and (b): The Election Commission has informed that there are common electoral rolls for Assembly and Parliamentary elections, except in Jammu and Kashmir, where separate electoral rolls are prepared for Assembly and Parliamentary elections under the provisions of the relevant Representation of the People Acts and the Registration of Electors Rules made thereunder. The matter relating to preparation of electoral rolls for, and conduct of elections to, local bodies does not come under the purview of the Election Commission.

(c) and (d): The Commission has informed that in pursuance of Hon'ble Gauhati High Court Orders dated 28.01.1994 and 01.02.1994 as upheld by the Supreme Court in its judgements and order dated 05.05.1994, the Election Commission issued guidelines for persons residing in Assam, whose Indian citizenship was in question. As per the said guidelines, the names of those persons whose Indian citizenship was in question, were to be referred to the concerned Tribunals. Meanwhile, those names were to be provisionally included in the electoral rolls but the word 'doubtful' was to be indicated against such names in the relevant portion of the electoral roll under the foot note 'D' meaning doubtful/disputed. After the Tribunals establish Indian citizenship in respect of these electors, they are allowed to vote. The word 'D' is removed in such cases.